

providing a net and cable assembly comprising a net and a net-supporting cable, the net having an upper edge margin and a cable-receiving sleeve at its upper edge margin, the upper edge margin having first and second ends and a mid-point midway between the first and second ends, the net-supporting cable extending through the cable-receiving sleeve of the net;

operatively connecting the net-supporting cable to the upper post sections of the first and second net standards in a manner so that the net is between the first and second net standards and extends downward from the net-supporting cable;

providing a tensioning mechanism on the upper post section of the first net standard;

a² using the tensioning mechanism to tension the net-supporting cable between the upper post sections of the first and second net standards to a net-supporting tension which is sufficiently great that the elevation of the first and second ends of the net's upper edge margin does not exceed the elevation of the mid-point of the net's upper edge margin by more than approximately 3/4" (2 cm) when the first and second ends of the net's upper edge margin are at approximately the same elevation;

operating the drive mechanism of the first net standard to move the upper post section of the first net standard between its raised and lowered positions without reducing the tension of the cable below the net-supporting tension, and to move the tensioning mechanism therewith; and

operating the drive mechanism of the second net standard to move the upper post section of the second net standard between its raised and lowered positions without reducing the tension of the cable below the net-supporting tension.

Please cancel claims 11-18 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 19 and 20.

a³
19 (new). A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the steps of operating the drive mechanisms of the first and second net standards comprises lowering the upper post sections of the first and second standards to change the height of the mid-point of the net's upper edge margin from about 7 feet, 11 5/8 inches to about 7 feet, 4 1/8 inches without reducing the tension of the cable below the net-supporting tension.

20 (new). A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the steps of operating the drive mechanisms of the first and second net standards comprises raising the upper post sections of the first and second standards to change the height of the mid-point of the net's upper edge margin from about 7 feet, 4 1/8 inches to about 7 feet, 11 5/8 inches without reducing the tension of the cable below the net-supporting tension.

Remarks

A. The Amendment To The Specification Overcomes The Objections To The Specification.

The specification has been amended to replace "cable 38" with "cable 28." Because of this amendment, the drawings are now consistent with the specification.

The Office has objected to the specification for not including certain metric equivalents to various distance. Applicant is unaware of any statute or rule requiring the inclusion of metric equivalents. Applicant requests that the Office either withdraw the objection concerning metric equivalents or cite a relevant statute or rule.